

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
11/13/19

MAJOR MILESTONES REPORT – 11/13/19

Likely in Nov.

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Likely beyond Nov. 30

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AIR AND RADIATION DIVISION

Hot Issue:

Limetree Draft PALs Permit Public Availability Session and Public Hearing : The public availability session and the public hearing took place on November 7th and 8th, respectively. The public availability

session was opened with a general presentation on the draft PALs permit and environmental justice and how these requirements were applied in this draft permit. A question and answer session followed the presentation. About a dozen people came to the availability session. They were very engaged and asked good questions. Below is a summary of those questions:

- They were most concerned about “self-monitoring” by Limetree because they felt that Limetree could manipulate either the ambient data or the emissions data.
- They asked how EPA enforces the permit.
- They asked what EPA will do if there is an exceedance of the NAAQS.
- What would happen if Limetree exceeds an emission limit?
- Will public be notified of such exceedances?
- They asked many questions about the ambient monitors, such as where the monitors are located and why they are all located only in the vicinity of Limetree. One wanted ambient monitors also in Frederiksted where they live.
- They noted that the PAL permit is for 7 pollutants, but the ambient monitors are for 3 pollutants. They asked what about other pollutants such as the 188 pollutants (referring to air toxics or HAPs) and what amount would cause cancer.
- One noted that the PAL emission limits are based on annual averages and the public health NAAQS are based on short term averages.
- They asked if HOVENSA was in compliance with their permits and if not, why should they trust Limetree?
- Can Limetree expand endlessly over the whole island as long as they comply with the PAL limits?
- Other questions included: can the public report an odor problem and if so to who?
- What needs to happen in order for EPA to shut down Limetree?

The audience at the availability session included an employee from Limetree and an employee from its consultant, RTP Environmental Associates, but they did not speak. ARD’s Suilin Chan and Annamaria Colecchia presented at the availability session. Jim Casey was present in the audience as well. Jim also was the hearing officer. ORC’s Joe Siegel was also provided support at the hearing.

The public hearing took place on the following evening. About 30 people attended and a dozen provided oral comments. The commenters were all associated with LBT with the exception of two citizens. One citizen was for the restart and one was concerned about the environmental issues associated with the restart of the refinery. The presenters commended LBT for the restart since it will create jobs and restore economic prosperity to the island after HOVENSA’s shut down and hurricanes Maria and Irma’s damages to the island. Many residents have since left the island and the restart is believed to have the potential of creating an attractive incentive for their return. The VP of Limetree was one of the presenters. He said that they are committed to complying with the annual PAL emission caps (but was silent on the ambient monitoring requirements). He mentioned that Limetree will provide a market for the Caribbean, West Africa, and South America. The other presenters included local businesses (trucking association, the captain and pilot of the terminal vessels, etc.) that rely on Limetree for the majority of their businesses, Limetree managers, a former Martin Marietta employee, and Limetree’s youngest employee: a 19-year old that is being sponsored by LBT for college. The one citizen commented on the self-reporting concern. The comment period closes November 25, 2019.

Past Week:

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CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Next Week:

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Past Week:

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ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE DIVISION

Past Week:

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LABORATORY SERVICES AND APPLIED SCIENCE DIVISION

Hot Issues:

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Upcoming:

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Other Items of Interest:

LAND, CHEMICALS AND REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Hot Issues:

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Past Week:

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Upcoming:

non-responsive

Other Items of Special Interest:

MISSION SUPPORT DIVISION

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OFFICE OF REGIONAL COUNSEL

Upcoming Week

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non-responsive

Past Week:

non-responsive

Upcoming:

non-responsive

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SUPERFUND AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Hot Issues:

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Upcoming:

Past Week:

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Other Items of Special Interest:

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STRATEGIC PROGRAM OFFICE

DISASTER RECOVERY AND MITIGATION

Past Week:

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Upcoming:

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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

Past Week:

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TRIBAL PROGRAM

Past Week:

Uncoming:

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION / ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE / SMART SECTORS

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WATER DIVISION

W Hot Issues:

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Upcoming:

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Past Week:

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Other Items of Special Interest:

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ATER DIVISION

Enforcement Report

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